

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2003

The Honorable Don Young
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Oberstar
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Oberstar:

As your committee takes up the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), we urge you to increase federal support for ferry boats, one of the country's most rapidly growing forms of transportation.

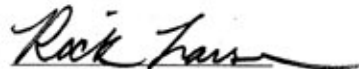
Ferry boat ridership has grown dramatically since TEA-21 was passed, providing a cost-effective and environmentally-sound alternative to congested highway, bridges and tunnels. In some cases, ferries are providing service where traditional commuter service has been disrupted by terrorist acts and natural disasters. In many places, ferry transportation is the only mode available to reach otherwise-isolated communities. In many urban areas, dramatic ferry ridership growth reflects continuing congestion.

For these reasons, we urge your committee to authorize \$150 million for the Ferry Boat Discretionary Fund. This is a modest amount compared with the documented capital needs for ferry boat and terminal construction, currently estimated at \$2.5 billion over the six years of the next authorization bill.

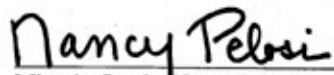
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

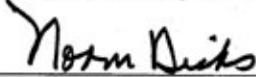




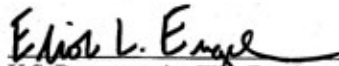
cc: The Honorable Thomas Petri
The Honorable William Lipinski



Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi



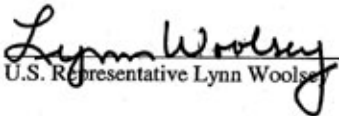
U.S. Representative Norm Dicks



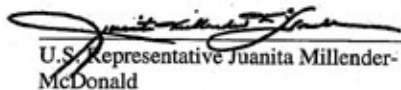
U.S. Representative Eliot Engel



U.S. Representative Sherrod Brown



U.S. Representative Lynn Woolsey



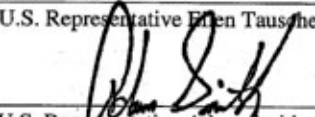
U.S. Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald



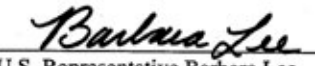
U.S. Representative Phil English



U.S. Representative Ellen Tauscher



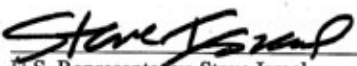
U.S. Representative Adam Smith



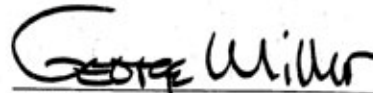
U.S. Representative Barbara Lee



U.S. Representative Brian Baird




U.S. Representative Steve Israel



U.S. Representative George Miller



U.S. Representative Tom Lantos



U.S. Representative Jim McDermott



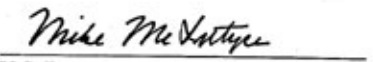
U.S. Representative Jerry Nadler



U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo



U.S. Representative Walter B. Jones



U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre



U.S. Representative Tom Allen



U.S. Representative Bill Delahunt



U.S. Representative Jay Inslee



U.S. Representative Anthony Weiner



U.S. Representative Mike Honda

Pete Stark

U.S. Representative Pete Stark